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FORMPTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
47161-00031USPX

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if k009 Sept 90805430

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NL00/00374		1	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE May 31, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED JUNE 1, 1999			
TITL	TITLE OF INVENTION COIL CONSTRUCTION FOR AN ELECTROACOUSTIC TRANSDUCER						
APP Aart	LICA Zege	NT(S) FOR DO/EO/US er Van Halteren; Engbert Wilmink, Hen	ndrik Dolleman; Paul Christiaan Van Hal				
App	licant	herewith submits to the United States	s Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the follo	owing items and other information:			
1.	\boxtimes	This is a FIRST submission of items of	concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.				
2.			Γ submission of items concerning a filing under 3				
3.	\boxtimes	(9) and (21) indicated below.	ational examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f				
4.			ration of 19 months from the priority date (Article	: 31).			
5.	⊠	b. M has been communicated by the	only if not communicated by the International Bure				
6.	\boxtimes	An English language translation of the a. is attached hereto b. has been previously submitted	e International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 37 dunder 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).	1(c)(2)).			
.7. •		a. ☐ are attached hereto (required by ☐ have been communicated by	er, the time limit for making such amendments ha	ureau).			
8.		An English language translation of the	e amendments to the claims under PCT Article 1	19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).			
9.	\boxtimes	An <u>Unexecuted</u> oath or declaration of	of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).				
10.		An English language translation of the Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).	e annexes of the International Preliminary Exami	ination Report under PCT			
	Item	s 11 to 20 below concern documen	t(s) or information included:				
11.	\boxtimes	An Information Disclosure Statement	under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.				
12.		An assignment document for recording	ng. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 3	7 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.			
13 .		A FIRST preliminary amendment.					
14.		A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT prelim	ninary amendment.				
15.		A substitute specification.					
16.		A change of power of attorney and/or	r address letter.				
17.		A computer-readable form of the seq	quence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter	r.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 – 1.825.			
18.		A second copy of the published inter	national application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).				
19.			ge translation of the International application unc	der 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).			
	⊠	Other items or information:	International Preliminary Examination Report (PC				

U.S	S. APPLICATION NO. (if $09/9$	known, see 37 CFR 1.5 8 0 4 3 0	PCT/NL00/00			AT	TORNEY'S DOCI 47161-000	
21.	☐ The following fee	es are submitted:	CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY					
21.	BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) – (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO							
	International prelimir USPTO but Internati	nary examination fee (370 onal Search Report prep	CFR 1.482) not paid to ared by the EPO or JPC)	\$890.00			
	but international sea	nary examination fee (37 rch fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO		TO \$740.00			
	but all claims did not	nary examination fee (37 satisfy provisions of PC	T Article 33(1)-(4)		\$710.00			
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		for furnishing the oath or st claimed priority date (3		□ 2	0 🗌 30	\$		
	CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA		RATE	\$		
	Total Claims	19 - 20 =	0	x	\$ 18.00	\$		
	Independent Claims	5-3 =	2		\$ 84.00	\$	168.00	
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	reduced by 72.		SUBTOTAL			\$		
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		st claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(1)).			\$		
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	Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be Accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$			
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	Aart Zeger van Halteren Engbert Wilmink Hendrik Dolleman)	Attorney Docket No. 47161-00031USPX
	Paul Christiaan van Hal)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Serial No.	Unassigned)	Examiner: Unassigned
Filed:	November 30, 2001)	
)	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8
	Construction for an)	Express Mail Label No. EL722095137US
Electr	oacoustic Transducer		I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, Virginia 22202, Attention: Box Patent Application. 11/30/2001 Attrienne White

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, Virginia 22202

Attention: Box Patent Application

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This application is a U.S. national phase of International Application No. PCT/NL00/00374, filed May 31, 2000. Prior to examining the subject application, please enter the following amendments to the international application as originally filed.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1 as originally filed, line 1, insert the following heading and paragraph before "The invention relates to . . . ":

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. national phase of International Application No. PCT/NL00/00374, filed May 31, 2000, which is a complete and foreign application of Dutch patent application No. 1012208, filed June 1, 1999.--

Page 1, line 13, delete "WO 91/10243" and insert therefor --U.S. Patent No. 5,610,989--.

Page 2, line 3, delete "WO 91/10243" and insert therefor --U.S. Patent No. 5,610,989--.

Page 2, line 28, delete "WO 91/10243" and insert therefor --U.S. Patent No. 5,610,989--.

Page 3, line 24, delete "Dutch patent application 1004877" and insert therefor --commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,078,677, entitled "Electroacoustic Transducer With Improved Diaphragm Attachment," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 as originally filed in the parent PCT application.

Please add new claims 8-26.

--8. A coil assembly for an electroacoustic transducer, comprising:
a coil having a coil opening defining an axis therethrough; and

a circuit board wherein at least a portion thereof is positioned against said coil in a substantially perpendicular relationship to said axis.

- 9. The coil assembly of claim 8, wherein said circuit board is flexible.
- 10. The coil assembly of claim 8, wherein said circuit board is rigid.
- 11. The coil assembly of claim 8, wherein said circuit board includes an opening, said opening of said circuit board being substantially aligned with said coil opening.
- 12. An assembly for an electroacoustic transducer, comprising:
 an armature having a first leg;
 a coil having a coil opening adapted to receive said first leg therethrough; and
 a circuit board having an opening adapted to receive said first leg therethrough,
 said circuit board being attached to said coil.
- 13. The assembly of claim 12, wherein said armature includes a second leg, said circuit board having a first slot adapted to receive said second leg therethrough.
- 14. The assembly of 12, wherein said first leg and said second leg are disposed to form a U-shaped armature.
- 15. The assembly of claim 13, wherein said armature includes a third leg, said circuit board having a second slot adapted to receive said third leg therethrough.

- 16. The assembly of claim 15, wherein said first leg, said second leg, and said third leg are disposed to form an E-shaped armature.
- 17. The assembly of claim 12, wherein said circuit board is attached to said coil via an adhesive.
- 18. The assembly of claim 12, wherein said coil opening and said circuit board opening are dimensioned so as to permit movement of said first leg of said armature in said coil opening and said opening.
- 19. The assembly of claim 12, wherein at least a portion of said circuit board is substantially perpendicular to said first leg.
- 20. An electroacoustic transducer, comprising:

a case;

a transducing assembly disposed in said case, including:

an armature having a first leg;

a coil having a coil opening through which said first leg is received;

a circuit board attached to said coil, said circuit board having an opening through which said first leg is received, said circuit board including at least one terminal; and

a magnet assembly including a first magnet separated from a second magnet by a gap, said first leg being received through said gap; and

connecting means for connecting said first leg to a diaphragm disposed in said case.

- 21. The electroacoustic transducer of claim 20 further comprising a pin connected to said at least one terminal of said circuit board, said pin extending through an aperture in said case.
- 22. The electroacoustic transducer of claim 20, wherein said armature includes a second leg and a third leg, said circuit board includes a first slot disposed along a first outer edge of said circuit board and a second slot disposed along a second outer edge of said circuit board, said first slot receiving said second leg and said second slot receiving said third leg.
- 23. The electroacoustic transducer of claim 20, wherein said circuit board is substantially perpendicular to said first leg.
- 24. A method of assembling an electroacoustic transducer assembly, comprising the steps of:

providing a coil having a coil opening; attaching a circuit board to said coil, said circuit board having an opening; extending an armature leg through said coil opening and said opening; and positioning a magnet assembly adjacent to said circuit board such that said armature leg extends through a gap between a first magnet and a second magnet.

- 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of dimensioning said coil opening, said opening, and said gap so as to permit movement of said armature leg therebetween.
- 26. A method of positioning a movable armature leg within a coil opening, comprising the steps of:

providing a coil having a coil opening therethrough;

attaching a circuit board to said coil, said circuit board having an opening therethrough and at least one slot formed along a peripheral edge of said circuit board; and

registering said movable armature leg in said coil opening by passing a support leg through said at least one slot.--

REMARKS

The Applicants have added new claims 8-26. New claims 8-26 are generally directed to the subject matter of originally filed claims 1-7, which were indicated as allowable by the PCT Examiner, and are believed to be allowable. Attached hereto under the caption, "Clean Copy of Pending Claims after Entry of Preliminary Amendment

Mailed November 30, 2001," is a clean copy of the pending claims after entry of the present amendment.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 30, 2001

Mystin Swindells Reg. No. 48,733 Jenkens & Gilchrist

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200

Dallas, TX 75202-2799

(312) 425-3900

Attorney for Applicants

Pending Claims After Entry of Preliminary Amendment Mailed November 30, 2001

- 8. A coil assembly for an electroacoustic transducer, comprising:

 a coil having a coil opening defining an axis therethrough; and
 a circuit board wherein at least a portion thereof is positioned against said coil in a
 substantially perpendicular relationship to said axis.
- 9. The coil assembly of claim 8, wherein said circuit board is flexible.
- 10. The coil assembly of claim 8, wherein said circuit board is rigid.
- 11. The coil assembly of claim 8, wherein said circuit board includes an opening, said opening of said circuit board being substantially aligned with said coil opening.
- 12. An assembly for an electroacoustic transducer, comprising:
 an armature having a first leg;
 a coil having a coil opening adapted to receive said first leg therethrough; and
 a circuit board having an opening adapted to receive said first leg therethrough,
 said circuit board being attached to said coil.
- 13. The assembly of claim 12, wherein said armature includes a second leg, said circuit board having a first slot adapted to receive said second leg therethrough.

- 14. The assembly of 12, wherein said first leg and said second leg are disposed to form a U-shaped armature.
- 15. The assembly of claim 13, wherein said armature includes a third leg, said circuit board having a second slot adapted to receive said third leg therethrough.
- 16. The assembly of claim 15, wherein said first leg, said second leg, and said third leg are disposed to form an E-shaped armature.
- 17. The assembly of claim 12, wherein said circuit board is attached to said coil via an adhesive.
- 18. The assembly of claim 12, wherein said coil opening and said circuit board opening are dimensioned so as to permit movement of said first leg of said armature in said coil opening and said opening.
- 19. The assembly of claim 12, wherein at least a portion of said circuit board is substantially perpendicular to said first leg.
- 20. An electroacoustic transducer, comprising:
 - a case;
 - a transducing assembly disposed in said case, including:

an armature having a first leg;

a coil having a coil opening through which said first leg is received;

- a circuit board attached to said coil, said circuit board having an opening through which said first leg is received, said circuit board including at least one terminal; and
- a magnet assembly including a first magnet separated from a second magnet by a gap, said first leg being received through said gap; and

connecting means for connecting said first leg to a diaphragm disposed in said case.

- 21. The electroacoustic transducer of claim 20 further comprising a pin connected to said at least one terminal of said circuit board, said pin extending through an aperture in said case.
- 22. The electroacoustic transducer of claim 20, wherein said armature includes a second leg and a third leg, said circuit board includes a first slot disposed along a first outer edge of said circuit board and a second slot disposed along a second outer edge of said circuit board, said first slot receiving said second leg and said second slot receiving said third leg.
- 23. The electroacoustic transducer of claim 20, wherein said circuit board is substantially perpendicular to said first leg.

24. A method of assembling an electroacoustic transducer assembly, comprising the steps of:

providing a coil having a coil opening;

attaching a circuit board to said coil, said circuit board having an opening;
extending an armature leg through said coil opening and said opening; and
positioning a magnet assembly adjacent to said circuit board such that said
armature leg extends through a gap between a first magnet and a second magnet.

- 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of dimensioning said coil opening, said opening, and said gap so as to permit movement of said armature leg therebetween.
- 26. A method of positioning a movable armature leg within a coil opening, comprising the steps of:

providing a coil having a coil opening therethrough;

attaching a circuit board to said coil, said circuit board having an opening therethrough and at least one slot formed along a peripheral edge of said circuit board; and

registering said movable armature leg in said coil opening by passing a support leg through said at least one slot.

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Title: Coil construction for an electroacoustic transducer.

This invention relates to an electroacoustic transducer comprising a case accommodating an armature with at least two armature legs; a coil with an air gap, which coil is fitted with the air gap around an armature leg; a magnetic element with an air gap, which magnetic element is likewise fitted with the air gap around the one armature leg, the air gap of the coil and that of the magnetic element being located substantially in line with each other; a diaphragm; a connecting element which couples a free end of the one armature leg to the diaphragm; and a printed circuit board with terminals for the wires of the coil and for external connections, the coil being attached to the printed circuit board.

Such transducers find application especially, but not exclusively, in hearing aids.

Such a transducer is known, for instance, from WO 91/10243. This publication recognizes the problems in manipulating the lead wires of the coil. These wires are often microscopically thin and must be connected to more robust connecting wires connecting the coil to the further circuits in the hearing aid.

In this prior art reference, it is proposed as a solution to attach the coil, preferably automatically, directly upon winding, to terminal areas of a flexible printed circuit board, whereby first the lead wires of the coil are attached, for instance by welding or soldering, to the terminal areas of the printed circuit board and subsequently a side face of the coil is attached, for instance by adhesion, to the printed circuit board. The printed circuit board further has additional terminal areas to which the external connecting wires can be attached, for instance by soldering.

A flexible printed circuit board has the advantage that it can be laid in the case in any desired manner. It is often also possible, however, to use a printed circuit board from rigid material.

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A problem in existing coil constructions which are not already mounted on a printed circuit board, and in coil constructions which, as in the technique according to WO 91/10243, have already been pre-mounted on a, possibly flexible, printed circuit board, is that positioning the coil with respect to the other parts of the transducer, in particular with respect to the arm of the armature and with respect to the air gap of the magnetic element, is a painstaking, labor-intensive and time-consuming and hence costly activity.

The invention contemplates presenting a solution to this problem and to that end provides a transducer of the above-mentioned type, characterized in that the coil is attached to the printed circuit board by an end face thereof, which is located essentially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the air gap, and that the printed circuit board is provided with an opening which corresponds with the air gap of the coil. Preferably, the printed circuit board is provided with at least one recess adapted to cooperate with at least one other leg of the armature.

The invention further provides a coil construction for an electromagnetic transducer, comprising a coil with an air gap and a printed circuit board with terminals for wires of the coil and external connections, characterized in that the coil is attached to the printed circuit board by an end face thereof, which is located essentially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the air gap, and that the printed circuit board is provided with an opening which corresponds with the air gap of the coil.

The invention is based on the insight that the printed circuit board can be fixedly connected to the armature and that, as a result, a coil fixedly connected to the printed circuit board can be accurately positioned with respect to the armature. By means of an automatic manufacturing process, for instance as elucidated in WO 91/10243, it is possible to position the coil very accurately with respect to the printed circuit board and to attach it thereto, for instance by means of adhesive. When thereupon the printed

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circuit board can be positioned with respect to the armature very accurately, the position of the coil with respect to the armature is thereby determined very accurately as well. The operation required for this purpose consists in sliding the printed circuit board over the armature, which is an operation which can be performed simply and fast. The invention thus provides an excellent solution to the above-outlined problem.

Hereinbelow, the invention will be further explained on the basis of an exemplary embodiment, with reference to the drawings. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a cross section of an electromagnetic transducer known per se:

Fig. 2a is a perspective view of a coil mounted on a printed circuit board, for an electromagnetic transducer according to the invention;

Fig. 3a is an exploded view of a magnetic body, a coil construction according to the invention, and an armature; and

Fig. 3b shows the parts shown in Fig. 3a in assembled condition.

In elucidation of the use of the coil construction according to the invention in an electroacoustic transducer, Fig. 1 schematically shows a transducer known per se for use in a hearing aid.

The transducer comprises a case I with an upper case portion la and a lower case portion 1b. The interior of the case communicates with the surroundings via a snout 3. In the case, a diaphragm 4 is fitted in such a manner that it can move freely relative to the case, for instance in the manner described in Dutch patent application 1004877. The diaphragm communicates via a so-called reed 5 with the end of a central armature leg 6a of an armature 6. In this case, the armature is E-shaped, as appears more clearly from Fig. 3, but may also be U-shaped.

Provided around the armature leg are a magnet 7, which is accommodated in a pole piece 8, and a coil 9. Both the magnet and the coil have a central opening disposed around the armature leg 6a, such that the

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armature leg can move freely in these openings. Between the coil and the magnet/pole piece combination, an adhesive film 2 is provided to fix these parts with respect to each other. The coil lead wires, not shown, are passed through the case to a printed circuit board 10 with terminals 11 to which the coil lead wires and the external connecting wires can be attached, for instance by soldering.

Electrical signals fed via the lead wires of the coil provide for a movement of the armature leg 6a, which movement is transmitted via the reed to the diaphragm 4, which converts the movement into the sound signals to be perceived via the snout 3.

It will be clear that it is a painstaking and labor-intensive activity to position the coil in the transducer shown in Fig. 1 and to connect the coil wires to the print 10.

Fig. 2 schematically shows a view of the coil construction according to the invention. The core-free coil 9 may be provided, on the circumference thereof, with terminals 12 for the coil lead wires 13a, from which terminals 12 further wires 13b lead to the printed circuit board 14. It is equally possible, however, to connect the coil lead wires 13a directly to the terminal areas 15 on the printed circuit board 14, which may be flexible or rigid, as desired. The coil body 9 is attached, for instance by adhesion, to the printed circuit board through a coil end face, which is located essentially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the central opening in the coil. This can be done with great accuracy in an automatic manner.

The printed circuit board further comprises terminal areas, not shown, for attaching connections to the exterior of the transducer. These further terminal areas are connected through print tracks to the terminal areas 15, or are part thereof.

An elegant solution for providing a connection between the printed circuit board 14 and the exterior of the transducer is to provide pins which at one end are connected, for instance by soldering, to the terminal areas on

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the printed circuit board 14 and which project outside through openings in the case wall to be connected to a printed circuit board present there, having further electronics for signal processing. Such pins can be rigid or slightly flexible and are to be passed, insulated, through the openings provided in the case wall for that purpose. In Fig. 3a two of such pins 18 are schematically shown.

As clearly shown in Figs. 3a and b, the printed circuit board 14 is provided with an opening 16 and recesses 17a, b, while the opening 16 corresponds with the air gap of the coil and can be slid over the armature leg 6a. The opening 16 is so dimensioned that the free movement of the armature leg is not hampered. The recesses 17a and b are slid over the two other legs 6b and 6c of the E-shaped armature 6. Naturally, the recesses 17a, b, instead of being slotted, can also be closed all round or have any other shape that is suitable to be slid over the armature legs 6b, c.

The recesses 17a and b fit accurately over the armature legs 6b and 6c, so that the position of the printed circuit board 14 with respect to the armature is very accurate. Because positioning the coil 9 with respect to the printed circuit board can also be done very accurately, the problem of positioning the coil body with respect to the central armature leg has been resolved in a simple manner.

It will be clear that the principle according to the invention is also applicable in U-shaped armatures, that is, an armature where either of the legs 6b or 6c is absent.

It will also be clear that there are other possibilities of accurately positioning the printed circuit board with respect to the armature than by way of recesses 17a and b.

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CLAIMS

- 1. An electroacoustic transducer comprising a case accommodating an armature with at least two armature legs; a coil with an air gap, which coil is fitted with the air gap around one armature leg; a magnetic element with an air gap, which magnetic element is likewise fitted with the air gap around the one armature leg, the air gap of the coil and that of the magnetic element being located in line with each other; a diaphragm; a connecting element which couples a free end of the one armature leg to the diaphragm; and a printed circuit board with terminals for the wires of the coil and for external connections, the coil being attached to the printed circuit board, characterized in that the coil is attached to the printed circuit board by an end face thereof, which is located essentially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the air gap, and that the printed circuit board is provided with an opening which corresponds with the air gap of the coil.
- 2. An electroacoustic transducer according to claim 1, characterized in that the printed circuit board is further provided with at least one recess adapted to cooperate with at least one other leg of the armature.
- 3. An electroacoustic transducer according to claim 2, characterized in that the armature is E-shaped, and that the printed circuit board is provided with two recesses, respectively cooperating with an outer leg of the armature.
- 4. An electroacoustic transducer according to any one of claims 1-3, characterized in that the coil is glued to the printed circuit board.
 - 5. An electroacoustic transducer according to any one of claims 1-4, characterized in that for the purpose of external connections, pins are

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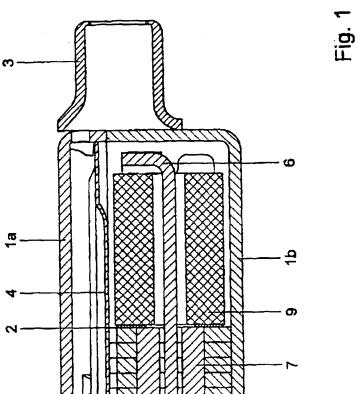
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connected to the terminal areas on the printed circuit board, which pins project through the wall of the case.

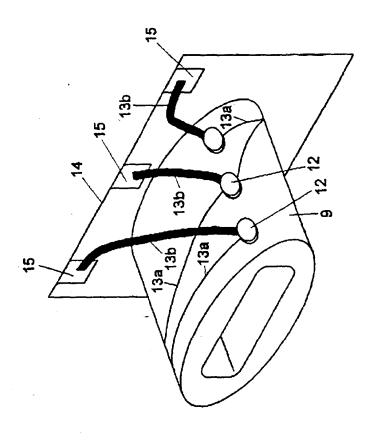
- 6. A coil construction for an electromagnetic transducer, comprising a coil with an air gap and a printed circuit board with terminals for wires of the coil and external connections, characterized in that the coil is attached to the printed circuit board by an end face thereof which is located essentially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the air gap and that the printed circuit board is provided with an opening which corresponds with the air gap.
- 7. A coil construction according to claim 6, characterized in that the printed circuit board is provided with at least one recess along the circumferential edge thereof.

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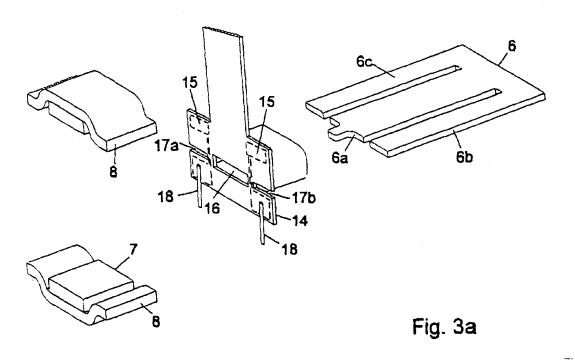


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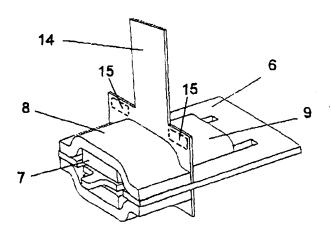


Fig. 3b

92%

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PATENT APPLICATION ATTNY. DOCKET NO.: 47161-00031USPX

RULES 63 AND 67 (37 C.F.R. 1.63 and 1.67) DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

FOR UTILITY/DESIGN/CIP/PCT NATIONAL APPLICATIONS

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: COIL CONSTRUCTION FOR AN ELECTROACOUSTIC TRANSDUCER, the specification of which: (mark only one)

X	(a) (b)	is attached hereto. was filed on November 30, 2001, as Application Serial No. was amended on (if applicable)	09/980,430 and
	(c)	was filed as PCT International Application No.	on (if applicable).
	(d)	was filed on as Application Serial No. and was issued a Notice of Allowance on	
	(e)	was filed on and bearing attorney docket num	ber

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above or as allowed as indicated above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56. If this is a continuation-in-part (CIP) application, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability of the application as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which my priority is claimed or, (2) if no priority is claimed, before the filing date of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Month/Day/ Year Filed	Date first laid- open or	Date patented or	Priority Yes	Claimed No
1012208	Netherlands	06/01/99	<u>Published</u> 12/07/00	Granted N/A	X	

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120/365 of any United States application(s) listed below and PCT international applications listed above or below:

Jenkens & Gilchrist Customer No.: 30,223

PRIOR U.S. OR PCT APPLICATIONS

PCT/NL00/00374

May 31, 2000

Published 12/07/00 WO 00/74436

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

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all of the firm of **JENKENS & GILCHRIST**, a **Professional Corporation**, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200, Dallas, Texas 75202-2799, as my attorneys and/or agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, provisionals thereof, continuations, continuations-in-part, divisionals, appeals, reissues, substitutions, and extensions thereof and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, to appoint any individuals under an associate power of attorney and to file and prosecute any international patent application filed thereon before any international authorities, and I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/organization who/which first sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct them in writing to the contrary.

Please address all correspondence and direct all telephone calls to:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

3-00

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